Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children (SDAEYC), along with its local affiliates/chapters, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating The Week of the Young Child on April 13-19, 2008; and,

Whereas, All young children deserve excellent early care and education, and high quality early experiences make a difference in children's lifelong learning and social success; and,

Whereas, All families deserve to have access to affordable, quality care and education for the well-being of their children; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has a high percentage of working families that rely on quality care for their children on a daily basis through the 872 registered family child care homes, 83 licensed group family child care homes, 176 licensed child care centers and 164 licensed before- and after-school care centers to care for 40,814 children; and,

Whereas, South Dakota child care professionals are a key component to building a successful future for each child and they deserve our respect and admiration for the care they provide to our families and children; and,

Whereas, The Week of the Young Child has been proclaimed in order to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibility:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 13-19, 2008, as

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and support the needs of young children in our state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State